Development of Gangavarm Port

553. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Port Trust's offer to take up Gangavaram Port project as a Joint Venture has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the investment likely to be made for development of the port by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Visakhapatnam Port Trust's offer to take up Gangavaram Port Project as a joint venture has not been accepted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, no investment is likely to be made for development of the Gangavaram Port by the Union Government.

Loading and unloading of cargo at major ports

554. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of congestion at Indian Ports waiting period for cargo loading and unloading has increased and consequently demurrage to be paid has also gone up by thousands of dollars during the last three years;

(b) if so, the average nunmber of days for loading and unloading of cargo at the major ports of the country; and

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken up improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No, Sir. The average pre-berthing detention to ships on port account for all the ports in the last three years is as follows:—

Year	Pre-berthing detention to Shipis on Port Account
1999-2000	0.9 days
2000-2001	0.5 days
2001-2002	0.5 days

(b) and (c) Do not arise.